



## **Announcement**

### **Fifteenth Session of the South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-15), Climate Services User Forum (CSUF) on Water**

**September 23-25, 2019, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India**

#### **Background**

South Asian climate is influenced by both tropical (Oct-Dec) and temperate mid-latitude (Dec-Feb) circulation systems during the winter months. The southern parts of South Asia, including peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and southern coastal areas of Myanmar are influenced by the North East Monsoon (Re-establishment of prevalent north easterly trade-wind regime over South Asia associated with the southward movement of the ITCZ), while extra-tropical activity dominated by “Western disturbances” influence the northern parts of the region including Afghanistan, Pakistan, north India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. It is therefore necessary that seasonal forecasts for the winter season are issued at two different times - one during September/October for the southern region and the other during November/December for the northern region.

The crucial role of winter rains and the growing recognition of the benefits of SASCOFs in articulating and sharing seasonal climate information have led to the need for regularly conducting winter SASCOFs. Winter sessions of SASCOF’s were started in 2015 keeping in view the importance of winter seasonal climate to key user sectors. The first winter SASCOF session was held in Oct 2015, at Chennai, Tamil Nadu India, and most recently in Colombo, Sri Lanka in Sep 2018.

#### **Forum**

The objective of the forum is to prepare seasonal climate information for the region that provides a consistent basis for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to prepare national level outlooks. Such platforms also serve to interact with user sector to understand and enhance the use of climate information.

The SASCOF-15 is **scheduled to be held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India during 23-25 September 2019**. The Regional Climate Center (RCC), Pune of India Meteorological Department (IMD), UK Met Office (UKMO), Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early-warning System for Asia and Africa (RIMES) and WMO (World Meteorological Organization) shall provide technical support. RIMES in collaboration with the RCC, IMD-Pune, UK Met Office and WMO shall be co-organizing this session of SASCOF.

#### **Funding**

The UK Met Office working in partnership with the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) is implementing the UK aid-funded **Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate (ARRCC) programme**. The four-year programme commenced in 2018 and aims to strengthen weather and climate services across South Asia. The programme will deliver new technologies and innovative approaches to help vulnerable communities use weather warnings and forecasts to better prepare for climate-related shocks. SASCOF-15 is being funded by ARRCC under its Work Package Strengthening Climate Information Partnerships (SCIPSA) on Seasonal Prediction.



## Overview of the agenda

**The Day 1: September 23, 2019** - Technical session will consider available seasonal prediction output from WMO Global Producing Centers (GPCs) and the Lead Centre for LRF MME together with presentation of country forecasts and discussions on methodology and tools to support an objective approach.

**Days 2&3: September 24-25, 2019** – User oriented sessions focused on sharing, understanding and interpreting the seasonal climate outlook. It is proposed to focus on Agriculture and Irrigation sectors during this session of winter SASCOF as winter rains in south Asia play a crucial role in the productivity of irrigation based agricultural sectors. SASCOF-15 will feature **“Climate Services User Forum focused on Water sector (CSUF)”**. CSUF will bring together experts in seasonal predictions and operational users from agricultural and irrigation departments of South Asian countries creating a platform for understanding seasonal climate information to make effective use to manage climate risks in the region. The session will recommend further needs of the sector in terms of customized products and tools to support decision-making.

## Participation

All National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of South Asia; invited national and international experts; experts from WMO and RIMES; experts from RCCs (Tokyo Climate Center JMA, Beijing Climate Center (BCC)), UK Met Office, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Australia and other GPCs, IMD & Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

Participation in SASCOF-15 is mainly by invitation, and by nominations from the Permanent Representatives of the respective countries with WMO as well as partner agencies, especially from user sectors. Efforts are being made to secure resources to support the travel and local hospitality expenses of participants, but these will be very limited and participants are encouraged to find their own resources, at least to partially cover the expenses. Expressions of interest by self-supported participants, if relevant to the topics of the various sessions, may be considered subject to the availability of space.

For more details and updated information including the agenda, please visit <http://rcc.imdpune.gov.in/Index.html>.

## Outcome

SASCOF-15 will prepare a climate outlook for the 2019 winter season covering the months from October to December. NMHSs from SASCOF member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as several regional and global experts will jointly prepare this climate outlook. The meeting shall also review requirements for climate monitoring and seasonal forecast products and make suggestions for regular conduct of winter SASCOF forums.

The CSUF special session will focus on interface with users from the Water and agriculture (linked to water) sector to interpret seasonal climate information and understand their specific needs with a view to further customizes climate information.



**Contacts:**

**Dr. Anshul Agarwal**

Senior Hydrologist

Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

1st Floor, Outreach Building, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Campus

58 Moo 9, Paholyothin Road, Klong Nung

(PO Box 4), Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand

Tel: +662 516 5900 to 01, Fax: +662 516 5902

**Email** [anshul@rimes.int](mailto:anshul@rimes.int)

**Dr. Divya E. Surendran**

Scientist C

Climate Prediction Group

Climate Research & Services

India Meteorological Department

Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005.

Maharashtra, India.

Phone (O) +91-020-25572213

Email [look4divya@gmail.com](mailto:look4divya@gmail.com)

**Dr. D. S. PAI**

Head, Climate Research & Services

Head, RCC, Pune

India Meteorological Department, Shivajinagar Pune – 411005, India

E-mail: [sivapai@hotmail.com](mailto:sivapai@hotmail.com) Mob: +919422313758

Phone (O) +91-020-25535877 Fax: +91 20 25535435

**Mr Wilfran Moufouma Okia**

Chief, World Climate Applications & Services Division (WCAS)

Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch (CLPA)

Climate and Water Department (CLW)

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

7bis, Avenue de la Paix

Case Postale No. 2300

CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Fax: +41-22-730-8042

Phone: +41-22-730-8377

E-mail: [wmokia@wmo.int](mailto:wmokia@wmo.int)

**About the ARRCC Programme and SCIPSA project please coordinate with:**

**Mr Francis Colledge,**

Senior Consultant, SCIPSA Technical Coordinator

MET OFFICE, Fitroy Road, Exeter, EX1 3PB.

United Kingdom

**Tel:** +44(0)7393762475

**Email:** [Francis.Colledge@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Francis.Colledge@metoffice.gov.uk)